CHARLES by the grace of God, King of Scotland, England, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith. To our Lovits

Heraulds, purſevants, our ſheriffs in that part conjunctly and ſeverally ſpecially conſtitute, greeting. Forſameikle as out of the royall and fatherly care which we have had of the good and peace of this our ancient and native kingdome, having taken to our ſerious conſideration all ſuch things as might have given contentment to our good and loyall ſubjects: and to this end had diſcharged by our proclamation the ſervice book, book of canons, and high commiſſion, freed and liberate all men from the practiſing of the five articles, made all our ſubjects both eccleſiaſticall and civill lyable to the cenſure of Parliament, generall Aſſembly, or any other judicatorie competent, according to the nature and qualitie of the offence: and for the free entrie of miniſters, that no other oath be adminiſtrate unto them then that which is contained in the act of parliament: had declared all by-gone diſorders abſolutely forgotten and forgiven: and for the more full and cleare extirpating all ground and occaſion of fears of innovation of religion, we had commanded the confeſſion of faith, and band for maintenance thereof, and of authoritie in defence of the ſame, ſubſcribed by our deare Father, and his houſhold, *in anno* 1580. to be renued and ſubſcribed again by our ſubjects here: Like as for ſettling of a perfect peace in the church and common-wealth of this kingdome, we caſed indict a free generall aſſembly to be holden at Glaſgow the xxi. of this inſtant, and thereafter a parliament in May, 1639. By which clement dealing, we looked aſſuredly to have reduced our ſubjects to their former quiet behaviour and dutifull carriage, whereto they are bound by the word of God, and laws both nationall and municipall, to us their native and ſoveraigne prince. And albeit the wiſhed effects did not follow, but by the contrary, by our ſo gracious procedure they were rather emboldened, not only to continue in their ſtubborne and unlawfull wayes, but alſo daily adde to their former procedures acts of neglect, and contempt of authoritie, as evidently appeared by open oppoſing of our juſt and religious pleaſure and command, expreſt in our laſt proclamation anent the diſcharge of the ſervice book, book of canons, high commiſſion, &c. proteſting againſt the ſame, and ſtriving by many indirect meanes to withdraw the hearts of our good people, not only from a hearty acknowledgement of our gracious dealing with them, but alſo from the due obedience to thoſe our juſt and religious commands, notwithſtanding we had been formerly ſo oft petitioned by themſelves for the ſame. By their daily and hourely guarding and watching about our Caſtle of Edinburgh, ſuffering nothing to be imported therein, but at their diſcretion, And openly ſtopping and impeding any importation of ammunition, or other neceſſaries whatſoever to any other of our houſes within that kingdome: Denying to us their ſoveraigne Lord that libertie and freedome, which the meaneſt of them aſſume to themſelves (an act without precedent or example in the Chriſtian world) By making of convocations and councell tables of Nobilitie, Gentrie, Burrows and Miniſters within the city of Edinburgh, where not regarding the lawes of the kingdome, they without warrant of authoritie conveene, aſſemble, and treat upon matters, as well eccleſiaſticall as civill, ſend their injunctions and directions throughout the countrey to their ſubordinate tables, and other under miniſters appointed by them for that effect. And under colour and pretext of religion exercing an unwarranted and unbounded libertie, require obedience to their illegall and unlawfull procedures and directions, to the great and ſeen prejudice of authoritie, and lawfull monarchicall government. And notwithſtanding it was evidently manifeſt by the illegall and unformall courſe taken in the election of their commiſſioners for the aſſembly, whereof ſome are under the cenſure of this church, ſome under the cenſure of the church of Ireland, and ſome long ſince baniſhed for open and avowed teaching againſt monarchie, others of them ſuſpended, and ſome admitted to the miniſterie contrary to the forme preſcribed by the lawes of this kingdome, others of them a long time ſince denounced rebels, and put to the horne, who by all law and unviolable cuſtome and practique of this kingdome, are, and ever have been incapable, either to purſue, or defend before any judicatorie, far leſſe to be judges themſelves; ſome of them confined, and all of them by oath and ſubſcription bound to the overthrow of epiſcopacie. And by this and other their under-hand working, and private informations and perſwaſions, have given juſt ground of ſuſpicion of their partialitie herein, and ſo made themſelves unfit judges of what concerneth epiſcopacie. And als it was ſufficiently cleared by the peremptorie and illegall procedures of the presbyteries, who at their own hand by order of law, and without due forme of proceſſe, thruſt out the moderators lawfully eſtabliſhed, and placed others, whom they found moſt inclinable to their turbulent humors, aſſociate to themſelves for the chooſing of the ſaid commiſſioners for the aſſembly, a laick elder out of each paroch, who being in moſt places equall, if not moe in number then the miniſterie, made choice both of the miniſters, who ſhould be commiſſioners from the presbyteries, as alſo of a ruling elder, being directed more therein by the warrants from the foreſaid pretended tables, then by their own judgements, as appears by the ſeverall private inſtructions ſent from them, far contrary to the lawes & the countrey, and lowable cuſtome of the church: by which doings it is too manifeſt, that no calme nor peaceable procedure or courſe could have been expected from this aſſembly, for ſettling of the preſent diſorders and diſtractions. Yet we were pleaſed herein in ſome ſort to blinde-fold our own judgement, and over-look the ſaids diſorders, and patiently to attend the meeting of the ſaid aſſembly, ſtill hoping that when they were met together, by our Commiſſioner his preſence, and aſſiſtance of ſuch other well diſpoſed ſubjects who were to be there, and by their own ſeeing the reall performance of all that was promiſed by our laſt proclamation, they ſhould have been induced to return to their due obedience of ſubjects: But perceiving that their ſeditious diſpoſition ſtill increaſes, by their repairing to the ſaid aſſembly with great bands and troupes of men, all boddin in fear of warre, with guns and piſtolets, contrary to the lawes of this kingdome, cuſtome obſerved in all aſſemblies, and in high contempt of our laſt proclamation at Edinburgh the xvi. of this inſtant: as alſo by their peremptory refuſing of our aſſeſſors, authorized by us (although fewer in number then our deareſt father was in uſe to have at divers aſſemblies) the power of voting in this aſſembly, as formerly they have done in other aſſemblies; and by their partiall, unjuſt and unchriſtian refuſing, and not ſuffering to be read the reaſons and arguments given in by the Biſhops, and their adherents to our Commiſſioner, why the aſſembly ought not to proceed to the election of a moderator without them, neither yet to the admitting of any of the commiſſioners of the ſaids commiſſioners from presbyteries, before they were heard object againſt the ſame, though earneſtly required by our Commiſſioner in our name. And notwithſtanding that our Commiſſioner under his hand, by warrant from us, gave in a ſufficient declaration of all that was contained in our late proclamation and declaration, the ſame bearing likewiſe our pleaſure of the regiſtration of the ſame in the books of aſſembly for the full aſſurance of the true religion to all our good ſubjects; And yet not reſting ſatiſfied therewith, leſt the continuance of their meeting together might produce other the like dangerous acts, derogatorie to royall authoritie, we have thought good, for preveening thereof, and for the whole cauſes and reaſons above-mentioned, and divers others importing the true monarchicall government of this eſtate, to diſſolve and break up the ſaid aſſembly. And therefore

OUR WILL is, and we do diſcharge and inhibit all and whatſoever pretended commiſſioners, and other members of the ſaid pretended aſſembly, of all further meeting and conveening, treating and concluding any thing belonging to the ſaid aſſembly, under the pain of treaſon, declaring all and whatſoever that they ſhall happen to do in any pretended meeting thereafter, to be null, of no ſtrength, force nor effect, with all that may follow thereupon: Prohibiting and diſcharging all our lieges to give obedience thereto, and declaring them, and every one of them, free and exempt from the ſame, and of all hazzard that may enſue for not obeying thereof. And for this effect we command and charge all the foreſaids pretended commiſſioners, and other members of the ſaid aſſembly, to depart forth of this city of Glaſgow within the ſpace of xxiiii. houres after the publication hereof, and to repair home to their own houſes, or that they go about their own private affaires in a quiet manner. With ſpeciall proviſion alwaies, that the foreſaid declaration, given in under our Commiſſioners hand, with all therein contained, ſhall notwithſtanding hereof ſtand full, firme and ſure to all our good ſubjects in all time coming, for the full aſſurance to them of the true religion. And our will is, and we command and charge, that incontinent theſe our letters ſeen, ye paſſe, and make publication hereof by open proclamation at the market croſſe of Glaſgow, and other places needfull, wherethrough none pretend ignorance of the ſame. Given under our ſignet at Glaſgow the 29. of November, and of our reigne the fourteenth year. 1638.

Sic ſubſcribitur

HAMMILTOUN,
Traquaire, Roxburgh, Murray, Linlithgow, Perth, Kingorne, Tullibardin, Hadintoun, Galloway, Annandaill, Lauderdaill, Kinnoull, Dumfreis, Southesk, Belheaven, Angus, Dalyell, J. Hay, W. Elphinſtoun, Ja. Carmichael, J. Hammiltoun.

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CUM PRIVILEGIO.